

SHAMERON WADDEL HALLMAN,
Petitioner,
vs.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent.

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Petitioner filed a Supplemental Memorandum, (Doc. No. 5), arguing that his § 924(c) conviction and sentence should be vacated pursuant to United States v. Davis, 139 S.Ct. 2319 (2019), and United States v. Simms, 914 F.3d 229 (4th Cir. 2019) (*en banc*). (Doc. No. 5). He argues that he will likely be eligible for a time-served sentence upon resentencing and asks the Court to expedite the resentencing.

The Court lifted the stay in this case pursuant to Davis, (Doc. No. 8), and the Government has now filed a Response in support of the Motion to Vacate, (Doc. No. 9). The Government concedes that the § 924(c) conviction is invalid because the predicate offense no longer qualifies as a crime of violence and asks the Court to resentence Petitioner on the remaining count of Hobbs Act robbery conspiracy, which Petitioner does not challenge.

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

A federal prisoner claiming that his “sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution or the laws of the United States, or that the court was without jurisdiction to impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law, or is otherwise subject to collateral attack, may move the court which imposed the sentence to vacate, set aside or correct the sentence.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a).

Rule 4(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings provides that courts are to promptly examine motions to vacate, along with “any attached exhibits and the record of prior proceedings . . .” in order to determine whether the petitioner is entitled to any relief on the claims set forth therein. After examining the record in this matter, the Court finds that the arguments presented by Petitioner can be resolved without an evidentiary hearing based on the record and governing case law. See Raines v. United States, 423 F.2d 526, 529 (4th Cir. 1970).

III. DISCUSSION

Section 924(c) prohibits using or carrying a firearm “during and in relation to any crime of violence or drug trafficking crime....” 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1). A “crime of violence” is defined in § 924(c)(3) as an offense that is a felony and:

- (A) has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, or
- (B) that by its nature, involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense.

18 U.S.C.A. § 924(c)(3).

The Supreme Court held that § 924(c)(3)(B)’s residual clause is unconstitutionally vague. United States v. Davis, 139 S.Ct. 2319 (2019). The Government correctly concedes that Hobbs Act conspiracy is not a crime of violence under § 924(c)’s force clause. See United States v. Simms, 914 F.3d 229 (4th Cir. 2019) (*en banc*). Petitioner’s § 924(c) conviction and sentence in Count (2) will therefore be vacated.

A district court has broad and flexible power to fashion an appropriate remedy in granting relief on collateral review. United States v. Williams, 740 F. App’x 794, 795 (4th Cir. 2018) (citing United States v. Hillary, 106 F.3d 1170, 1171 (4th Cir. 1997)). A district court is authorized to take one of four distinct courses in remedying a successful § 2255 petitioner’s unlawful sentence: (1) “discharge the prisoner,” (2) “grant [the prisoner] a new trial,” (3) “resentence [the prisoner],” or (4) “correct the [prisoner’s] sentence....” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(b) “[T]he goal of § 2255 review is to place the defendant in exactly the same position he would have been had there been no error in the first instance.” United States v. Hadden, 475 F.3d 652, 665 (4th Cir. 2007) (internal quotation marks omitted). The Fourth Circuit has adopted the sentence package doctrine which embraces a holistic approach when sentencing a defendant convicted of multiple offenses. The Fourth Circuit has

acknowledged that “when a defendant is found guilty on a multicount indictment, there is a strong likelihood that the district court will craft a disposition in which the sentences on the various counts form part of an overall plan,” and that if some of the counts are vacated, “the judge should be free to review the efficacy of what remains in light of the original plan.” Cunningham v. Scibana, 259 F.3d 303, 309 (4th Cir. 2001) (quotations omitted). It is within the district court’s broad and flexible power to determine the nature and scope of the remedial proceedings. Hadden, 475 F.3d at 669.

The Court finds it appropriate to conduct a resentencing on the remaining count so that all relevant factors can be taken into consideration.

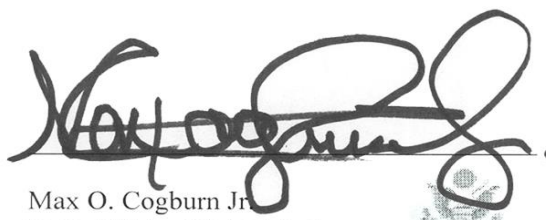
IV. CONCLUSION

Petitioner’s § 2255 Motion to Vacate is granted, the conviction in Count (2) is vacated, and Petitioner will be resentenced on the remaining count at the Court’s earliest convenience.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner’s Motion to Vacate Sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, (Doc. No. 1), is **GRANTED**.
2. Petitioner’s conviction and sentence on Count (2) are **VACATED**.
3. Petitioner will be resentenced on Count (1).
4. The Clerk of Court is directed to certify copies of this Order to the Petitioner, counsel for the Petitioner, the United States Attorney, and the United States Probation Office.

Signed: June 29, 2020



Max O. Cogburn Jr.
United States District Judge

